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A PARLIAMENTER'S PETITION TO THE ARMY

The present Supreme Authority OF ENGLAND,

High and Mighty Masters,

IT hath been in every bodies mouth, *The Parliament were your drudges that you were twice or thrice about to discard them since they sat last*: No doubt, they spake it most of them as they would have it. Well, you have broken this Parliament, yea, you have broken your selves and us too, yee have turned all topsie turvie. 'Tis true of you, *These are they that have turned the world upside down: you have made* England, Scotland, Ireland, *a Chaos, without form and void*, and I doubt your Omnipotency will never speak the word for such a creation, as any honest man shall say when he hath looked upon it, *that it is very good*

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14 x 12.9cm
XUM

You may pardon me since you have put all out of Order, if you have disordered my thoughts, so that I observe no method, when all is without any method among us: I tell you, *this action is the most faithless, senseless, bustless, ruinous action that ever appeared upon the Stage of the world: the most false hearted and traiterous: the most ridiculous and insignificant: the most vain and fruitless: the most dangerous and destructive adventure that ever men took in hand. Oh my soul enter not thou into their secrets! nor let any honest men say a confederacy with them; let them associate themselves, they shall be broken to pieces, God will find them out in due time.* I beseech you what do you mean, are ye Christians and yet will not be men? to passe by all former Obligations: did you not the other day *bewail your Apostasie; that you had wandred from your GOOD OLD CAUSE?* did you not tell us, *You took shame to your selves, and remembred from whence you were fallen, and repented, and would do your first workes; and therefore finding that God blessed you all along till you forced the Long Parliament, but after that, made you labour as in the fire, and no good came of all your after actions*; wherefore you assured them, *that now they should sit freely, and you would strengthen their hands and be their servants.* Is not all this truth in these very words, or to this effect, and much more if I had leasure to repeat, but it is fresh in every bodies mouths and minds, though you have forgot it, and are you not past shame now: *must we bewail your Apostacy now*, as fearing *since you are fallen away after being enlightned, it will be hard to restore you again to repentance; especially since ye have tasted of the powers of this world.*

But besides this, did you not every Mothers child of you Officers, did you not take your Commissions from the Parliament, & one by one promise your obedience: Yes, that most faithful and gifted Brother Colonel *Packer*, promised when he received his Commission at Mr. *Speakers* hands, *that he would not only promise them to be faithful and obedient, but they should see by his actions that he would be a true servant to them and the Commonwealth.* Yea *Lambert* himself was the greatest stickler for the Parliament (God forgive him, for what ends I know not) and yet these men Act like as they had given the Parliaments Commissions, and trurn them out, whom they just now promised so seriously to obey: a *Turk*, a *Heathen* would have scorned this falshood and baseness: What not e faithful to our trust! *O faithless and perverse Generation.*

Add to this, that flattering and insinuating *Petition* and *Representations* but the other day, wherein they so sadly bemoan themselves *that the Parliament should so sharply rebuke their humble servants, their faithful servants, that meant nothing but to petition in a peaceable manner*; where they artificially conceal their intentions for a *General*, *only desire that* Fleetwoods *Commission may be renewed*: other things they Petition for (we understand what your Petitioning signifies) *some to insinuate into the favour of the Militia; others to secure the Government of the Nation in the hands of the Officers of the Army*; it is so in the effect; and the most

most Saint-like, promise all to be well-meaning men, to be servants to the *Parliament*; and the most sweet expressions imaginable. But we have eyed them that say, *they are Saints, they are the faithful Servants of the Common-wealth, but are not*; and have found them Lyars. Who, *Lambert* put the *Northern Brigade* to petition for a *General*? no such matter, he perswaded them (*good man*) all he could against it; yes, I'le warrant you: And yet the *Fift Monarchy-men*, (the Mad ones of them) think now *Christs Kingdom* goes on amain, and flock down in Shoals to *Wallingford-house*, to make way for *Christs* coming; who may be coming for ought that I know, as he saith, ---- *When the Son of Man comes shall he find faith upon the earth?* Upon my word, these were fit to live *and raign with Christ a thousand years*, who cannot keep Faith an hundred dayes. Let me say with the Psalmist, *Help Lord, for the Godly man ceaseth, for the faithful fail among the Children of men; they speak vanity every one with his neighbour; with flattering lips, and with a double heart do they speak.*

'Tis a most senseless, ridiculous, and insignificant action; you please your Enemies, and make your selves and us, the whole Nation, a scorn, a derision, and a Proverb in the earth. I formerly have been dealing with a Malignant Impostor, whose whole businesse was nothing else but to make you break the *Parliament* to serve his designs; for I tell you, they fear their Wisdome, more then your Power. Are the *Cavaliers* your friends? are ye bewitched to believe them, and to slight your old true friends; I thought I needed not to say much to answer that treacherous *Cavalier*; it was enough to tell you whose was the plot, to perswade you to break the Parliament; ye are cheated into a belief of his imposture. Ah me! are ye not proud of your wisdome? Whose is this Invention? who put you upon this exploit? Oh sad! *Will you please your enemies, and grieve your friends. Know him or them that put you upon this gross piece of folly, and avoid them. We that put you upon calling back this Parliament, and encouraged you in the day of your straights, and told every body we met, how honest the Army would be, now they understood themselves; that they would stand by the Parliament, while they did settle the Nation upon the foundations of righteousnesse and truth: We, even we, are laughed to scorn; and I must speak to you in the words of Joab*; ye have shamed this day the faces of all your servants, *that have saved your lives, (that have saved your credits, which should be as dear as life, and that have appeared for you in the day of your distresse) in that you love your Enemies, and hate your friends; for you have declared this day*, that you regard neither Princes nor Servants; for this day I perceive that it pleaseth you well, though all we dye, so *Absalom* live: *We know not how to look any body in the face; though we thought we had done well when we appeared for you, against your enemies. But every one of us get away by stealth, as people that are ashamed steal away when they flee in Battell; ---- Not only so, but you have made your selves the most absolute*

Changelings *in the world*; *It is a Proverb beyond Sea, to expresse any uncertainty thus,* ------ As certain as England.

Our Agent *Lockhart* is laughed at, when he comes to treat with the *Spanish* Favourite: *What a peace with you! who are your Masters? you have as many Masters as Moons: Goe make peace among your selves, and then talk of peace with us.*

Ambassadors here in *England* know not who to make their Addresses to; and have said, *what shall we treat? we know not who to trust to: You will have new Masters within this Six Weeks, and then we must begin again.* This is greatly for your honor; 'tis your interposing hath begot all these changes; still as we have beene settling you have broke us to pieces, this is all your wit, you mend the matters wisely; if we will have any Government to hold, better heads then yours must consult it. I am loth to think 'tis your design to unsettle us; if it be, *God help your heads*, you will feel the smart of it in time, as well as we; you are *good Souldiers*, but *bad Statesmen, professing your selves wise ye are become fools: Be not wise over-much*, nor take too much upon you; ye have miscaryed over and over; will you be doing again? I dread the consequence of this hair-brain'd Action; and there are such fools in the World, *I thought they should be brayed in a Mortar, yet their folly will not depart.*

Well, but the Parliament must out; why, *what evill have they done? for which of all their good works do you stone them?* Have they not gone through good report and evil report for the good of the *Nation*? Was not their hand in all that was done for the asserting the Nations Birthrights? and where they not carefully providing for us when you first turned them out; to say, *They intended to perpetuate themselves, that so they might Colour their Usurpation and Tyranny.* Out of your *own mouths I judge you, you evil servants*; remember your Declaration, wherein you bewailed your Apostasie. Did they not return to their duties again, to serve the publike if possible, and forget all your former abuses? And did they not set themselves seriously to work for the Nations welfare? and did they not do as much as men could doe, that found things in so much distraction, to reduce us to better Orders? Yea verily, *they did as much as mortal men could doe.* Yea, did they not discountenance some men more then there was absolute necessity of, to give you content? yea, did they not get you a *whole Years Tax to be paid in Three Months*, and a *Three Moneths Taxe to be paid in Three Weeks*, and all to keep fair with you, and to pay you your due? Did they not prepare an Act for one hundred thousand pounds *per mensem* to immediately levyed for you; and Ordered to sell every thing almost to pay you your Arrears? and thereby drew an *odium* upon themselves, more then ever any other Parliament would doe, since you first turned them out. And yet though men grumbled at these Charges, yet generally hoped the Parliament would make amends by doing good things for them. Yea, did not the Parliament

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give them new Commissions, whom the Protector had cashiered, without respect of persons, if they were judged Faithful; as *Lambert* his own self, though a worthy member of Parliament gave good reason to the contrary; all without respect to their opinions; dealing their respect without partiality, hoping hereby to oblige their affections: yea did they not encourage all that did the Nation service, and share their Rewards without distinction to all that deserved it; to *Duckenfield* and *Creed*, who deserve a thousand times more the reward of a *Rope* for their late Treason, then a Chain of Gold for their *Cheshire* Service: Oh ungrateful unthankful Monsters of Mankind! could it be believed, so much disingenuity should be harboured in *English* breasts? Nay I pray heartily, *had you any reason to mistrust the Parliament*? no more then I have to mistrust my own heart: *Have they not been enbarqued all along in the common cause with us? is it not as much their interest as yours to consult the security of the Nation, and all that have been the Parliaments Friends? Yea, is not their life bound up in your life? They could not design to ruine the Army, but they must ruine themselves: You were and are as necessary by your Forces to defend us, as their Councel to give forth such Orders as may make us happy being so defended; and enable us to maintain you as our Guards: When as through want of good advice, if the Commonwealth sink, (as undoubtedly it must without better Counsellors) ye may go and defend Jamaica; here will be no use of you. Certainly the Parliament cannot be without you, he is besides himself that thinks they can; they could no more settle a Commonwealth without your Arms, then you can without their Heads; neither could they secure themselves, but they must secure you; nor make any Lawes that should be bad for you, but they must be bad for themselves; which every body thinks they would be as careful in as they could, and no body doubts but they could consult as well as any company of men that ever were in England:* Yea, and say, I said so. *You must call them back again if ever you make any work of it against the* Norman *Race.*

Go your way then, think upon it: What have you done? certainly, the most barbarous, savage, and inhumane action that ever was done; it seems, *you neither fear God, nor reverense man*; the most *brutish, childish, wilful, headlong, giddy* Undertaking that ever was put in practise And *Wo, aye wo indeed to the Nation whose Prince is a Childe*: and no lesse *wo to that Commonwealth whose Rulers are Children.* Yet more, tis the most *bootlesse, rash and fruitlesse Enterprise* that ever was introduced by men that could pretend to a design: Good now, *What benefit did you propound to your selves, or the State? Do you propound no end of your actions? do you not think before hand, what you shall speak or do? But do you in that very same hour whatever is upon your Spirits?* I doubt, if you have not thought of it before hand, it will hardly be given you so suddenly, *how to answer me aright*; What, *do you overturn, overturn, overturn; and take no care for the Nation, nor your selves; what we shall eat, or whether we shall drink; or whether we shall have any cloathes to our backs? Is this Heathenish?*

Sure

Sure our Lord never taught you this Lesson, to understand him after this rate: Do you say to us, *Be filled, be warmed, be cloathed?* Will this do the work? Do you design the benefit of the Nation, by disturbing our *Settlement*, by obstructing our *Trade*, by beggering the *Nation*, by undoing every thing as fast as it is done, by breaking our *Parliaments*, by setting the *Sword* above our ancient *Birth-rights*? is this your providence for us? *Gramercy Horse.*

But stay, what did you get by breaking this Parliament before? but subject your selves to the pleasure of your General, who turned —— out all he pleased, that would not be his *Janisaries*: and after Six years were forced to call them back again with shame enough. And now you have broken them again, what will you be gainers? Whoever gets the power, and not by right, will make us Slaves, and you too; insinuations and fair pretenses must be used to *Trepan* you at first; but they that are faithful among you will be known, and weeded out, as soon as the business is effected; honest men, may be instrumental to set up a Tyrant, but are not fit instruments to keep them up; nay, honest men shall be so sure to be rooted out, that it is among their Politicks, *to remove all that have been the instruments of their advancement, least they should presume that their good Services had for ever obliged their Master, or Masters, and so should not be so wholly at their devotion as others that they should gratifie with their places; who were bound to deserve that, which they received without any merit.* Are the pretenses fairer now then before? No, there is not half that pretense that was on old *Olivers* side. Can you not see through them; *No single Person, no by no means; we abominate the thoughts of that:* What then? No body knowes, unless something that is a thousand times worse, *Three, Ten, Thirty*, or it may be *Seventy Tyrants* for a while, till some one can get above the rest. The Second General Officer is an unlucky place; it was *Lieutenant General Cromwell* once, and then he was a Saint, a precious Saint, could preach, and pray, and promise strange matters; then it was --*Is thy servant a dog, that he should do so and so:* what *be Protector, be King, rule by my meer will, no by Gods grace I will never doe it.*

Put case *Fleetwood* will not act as General, nor grant Commissions to them that have none, them the Parliament Voted out, and those that shall be brought into the place of those honest Commanders that did their part for the Parliament, *the salt of the Army*, who being put out (as certainly that will be their fate, if the weather clear towards the *North*) *the Army will stink in the noses of all Europe.* I say, if *Fleetwood* will not, I hope somebody else will; what's next then, why not a King? one King, or another King, and then what is the benefit *Richard Lord Protector is laid aside*, and *King JOHN the Second comes up in his place:* At first it may be a *Senate*, but then something for the honour of *England*, a *Duke of Venice Elective*; Election will do the work to get into the Throne, but when once up, it must be theirs and their heirs for ever, if it be not made

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hereditary, I'le warrant you they know whom to nominate their Successor, for it will not be prudence to leave that matter undetermined to go out of the world, lest these Disciples should fall together by the ears about the question, *Who should be greatest*. If you will not believe your own experience, who can help it; I hope by this time your Commander in chief may make bold to put in and pull out who he please; out with an *Overton*, a *Rich*, a *Harrison*, and in with my Son *Falconbridge*, my Cozen *Lockhart*, and the rest of his *well affected kindred*: and I shall not pity you a jot.

But if it should hap to *Lamberts* chance to be *Dominus fac totum*, I hope those thorough-paced *Protectorians* who laughed so heartily when his Lordship was turned out of service by the *Old Protector*, some of whom told me, when I complained of my *Lord Protectors* carriage to him, *that it was no matter, never was any man lesse pitied, or lamented after, he was all for himself, he hoped to be next Protector, and because nominating a Successor was agreed of, therefore he was discontented.* I say certainly these men will now be contented to yield their places to men that were better affected, and are the more endeared friends of his Lordship: hitherto then, you have notably well projected for your selves, ye are shrewd Politicians. What then shall you Govern the nation your selves, a great purchase, a burden to any honest man, more then a benefit: how many of you are like to share in this if that were true? *two* or *three of your Grandees*, and theres your design; no you hate the thought of this, we mistake the matter, and do you a great deal of wrong to suspect this. What then? *you shall be better paid*: that's well guessed in good sooth, how will you have it? *why one way or other, any how rather then fail, we will have it by foul means, if it will not come fairly*: no no, you abuse us, *nothing shall be gathered, but what is levyed by the people in Parliaments*; so far you are right, and if ever you see a Parliament in *England* that will take so much care of you as this *Parliament* hath taken, and was a taking for you, that will raise you 120000*l. per mensem*, or 100000*l. per mensem*, as they have done for you, if you could have kept your selves honest: then spit in my face, and tell me I lie. No, tis *this Parliament* that must hazard their Reputations to pay your Arrears, and the Debts of the Nation. and then *future Parliaments* may be more easily perswaded to grant such a Tax as may keep us always out of your Debt. What then, *hath the Parliament Voted 9 of your Commanders out of their places: doth this anger you, and is this the bottom of the business, and is this all your design to be avenged of them, and the Nation for it?* goodly great ones! *What are these men trow, that their particular concernments to be kept in Pay and Command, should stand in competition with the Ruine of Three Nations*, a huge reach indeed: But pray, *was it without good reason? could the Parliament do lesse? had not some of them promoted a General Meeting of the Northern Brigade; notwithstanding after the Parliaments dislike of it, and after the Petition and Representation of the Army was presented and debated in the House, which*

though

though it did not expresly require a GENERAL, *yet did strongly imply it, and required some things of lesse consequence.*

I say, after this, these 9 Grandees combined together in a *Letter* signed by them all, *to engage the subscriptions of a Regiment thereunto*, which was produced in *Parliament*, and could have no other construction, *but if the Parliament would not grant their commands, they should be made to do it*: which deserved a greater severity *then being put out of their places.* The like practise they also set on foot in divers other Regiments.

If this became *faithful servants*, I wonder who are *Masters*; but for the *honesty of the matter* they thus combined to effect, to instance only in one particular, *No Officer must be displaced but by a Council of Officers.* What is the mystery of this iniquity? why all must turn out that will be faithful to the *interest of the Nation*, and the *trust reposed in them*, they would pack their Officers to their own mindes: shuffle and cut both: verily then, *if they should Petition in a peaceable way* (as they call it) a priviledge not to be debarred the meanest *Englishman*: I wonder what *Supreme Authority* durst say them Nay: this is a thousand times worse providence, *then to grant them a General, and to give him power to place and displace at pleasure*; worse providence for the Nation I am sure: we might possibly finde one honest man in *England* whom we might trust, if it could not otherwise be avoided, but how to make a whole Councel of Officers honest; most of whom have sprouted up from no *very generous principles* this is next of kin to an impossibility. What a *Corporation* of the *Army*! what the *Army* the *Representative of England*? Must your *General* (as of late) be the *Archon*, or *Sole Legislatour*; your *Council of Officers* our *Senate*, and your *small Officers* the *people of England*; out upon it, this is too bad in all conscience: why not a *Corporation of the Navy* too? as much reason every jot. What, *the Supreme authority of England, that pay you your wages, that can put in and out at their pleasure* (and it is reason they should) *the Lords Keepers of the Great Seale: the Judges of the Land: the greatest Officers of State: yea and Besides whom none can give you Commissions*; but they are Rogues, & Robbers, as bad as any High-way-men, and worse, *who take upon them to act and have no Commission from them*; it is the case of some among you.

Tis a Combination and a Conspiracy among you to make a GENERAL, and give him *Commission*, and then he to give you *Commissions*, or to set up any number of men as *Supreme*: but such as *the good people of the Land chuse*) and then *to take Commissions from them*, this is *Idolatry to fall down and worship the work of our own hands, and to cry aha! we are warmed, aha! we are warmed.* What not the *Supreme Authority* be able to remove a *Lieutenant*, an *Ensign*, a *Serjeant*, a *Corporal*! But by your leave *most omnipotent Council of Officers*, 'tis true, it is dangerous trusting a General with this Power, he may turn all to his own interest, which most commonly accords but little with that of the Nation, you have had wonderful experience of this already; but the *Parliament* whose

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interest is the interest of the Nation; and can be no other: that their noses should come under the *girdle of an Army*, Oh sad contrivance!

What was it the *Good Old Cause* that the *Parliament* must have the *Militia*, and not the *King*; was it then reason *they should command the Sword, who carried the Purse, and carried the interest of the Nation among them*? and poor *King* must he suffer death for standing upon his terms with them; And now when the *Parliament* is by Your selves declared *the Supreme Authority of England*, now they must *touch none of your anointed*; now they must not so much as *remove one single Officer of your Army*, but through the *meditation of your grace and favour*: could the *Parliament* say *Amen* to this part of your *Petition* and *Representation*, and not *betray* the *Nation* and their *trust*, and make themselves the *scorn* and *hatred* of the *Nation*, and *future Parliaments*? Yea, could they understand this *private Combination*, to *force* this *unreasonable desire*, and proceed with lesse tokens of *their displeasure*, and not give the *Nation a jealousie* that they would betray them; And is this the reason why you hagge these 9 powder-plotters, to effect this most horrid hellish mischief. I can imagine nothing so like the truth of the Design, if there be any design in it as this; well should this be effected for you *that you should give Law to England*, pray what will be the design of it? to what end I pray? to betray your deep insight into the affairs of State? To gain your selves Honour and Renown for your rare Conduct of the State; no I fear *shame would be your promotion*; you would have little better successe then you have had; you may joult your *Jobernouls* together long enough, before you can hammer out a Settlement for us; no body thinks that saying true of you, *I am wiser then all my Teachers*: Where will be the Design, if when you have run your selves out of Winde, and out of your Wits too, your shall be reduced to the like exigency as of late, and be forced to beway! your Blindness and Apostasie again; I say, *what is become of the Design then*?

And it is not in reason to foresee how you can manage the Chariot of the State long, but all must run into disorder; your Sin, yea and your undertaking will be a burden, *a punishment greater then you can bear*: Very considerate men think you can hardly carry it a *Moon*. *Oh shallow, oh incogitant, oh pitiful, oh foolish* Army! *who hath bewitched you*? *you did run well, who hindred you*? will you now altogether run in vain? will you *lose the things you have wrought*? will you *sit the righteous for nought*? Our *Lawes, Liberties*, our *Good Old House for lesse then a pair of Shoes*? Will you storm us, and do your selves no good? Oh peevish! oh wilful! *Are ye Children*? *are ye Fools*? *are ye Mad*? Do you discover your Gallantry by grapling with Impossibilities? For shame men, for shame give over. *Oh but you mistake us all this while, our Design is, To carry on the Refined Interest, the Spirit of the Cause.*

Good! good! is this the businesse? what is this new thing nothing, you may make sport withal, a Refined Interest; the spirit of the cause; hard.

hard words what is the *English* on't: I wonder, whether Sir *Henry Vane* hath opened these abstruse terms to your understanding: you apprehend things more nimbly then it seems, then honest old *English*-spirited Sir *Arthur Hasterig*, that most highly deserving patriot; I think it will be hard to understand the thing you drive at, by the terms you dresse it in; you will teach us to speak *English* after a new cut; certainly such an Interest, was never till now phrased a *Refined one*. The *Refined Interest*, saith Mr. *Harrington is that which carries so much reason in it, and so much the Interest of the Nation, that it being once understood, and we in possession of it; needs not a Mercenary Army to keep it up*: Is your Interest refined in this notion you so much bless your selves in? what course will you take for the carrying on the spirit of the cause, *the Refined Interest*? what will you preserve our *choice* inviolable? shall that power rule us, and you, that we choose so to doe? No, this would hazard the *Refined Interest* Ile warrant you. What then, shall all the old Friends of the Parliament, that are no more *Turn coats* then your selves; and have served the *State* as well as your selves, shall these in every County, City, and considerable Burrough, choose their Trustees for the Supreme Authority? No, there hath been a great Apostasie and Back-sliding; honest men shall be chosen, who are true to the *Cause*; who *are fit to be Kings and Priests, and to reign for ever and ever*; such as have the Spirit, and these will know *what Israel ought to doe*; and will *make good Laws and Statutes, and execute judgement in the Gate*; these *will hate the Whore, and burn her flesh with fire*: Is this the *Refined Interest*? what such another *Gimcrack*, as that little *Mungrel thing* that Voted it self a *Parliament*; any thing in the world that will keep our Faction in heart; that will carry on our design, this is the *Refined Interest*; whether it be *honest*, or whether it be *just*, it matters not: many men extol that *Junto* to this day, though the very Constitution of it *stinketh in the Nostrils of every considerate man; as tending utterly to cheat us of our Choice.*

And what do not men magnifie now adayes, *that will but say as they say?* Beshrew that Christian policy that would ride over our Rights and priviledges, under pretence of a *Refined Interest*. Those that will forget to be *Men*, will not long remember to be *Christians.*

They that will dash the Second Table of the Law to pieces, will hardly keep the First Table as they ought.

Will you rob us of our Rights, and kill us by *Famine* and *decay of Trade*? Surely we must all be Souldiers ere long, and then we shall get *a Vote among you.*

Will ye kill? will you steal, and say, Ye are delivered to work all these abominations? No, you are out all this while: We will be honester then you think for; we will have *Parliaments* still, chosen by the people: But it cannot be safe for the *Godly*, unless we choose a *Select number of faithful men*; Faithful to the *GOOD OLD CAUSE*, that shall be a check to the Parliament, an *Influencing Senate*, as Mr. *Stubs* hatcht;

who

who hath written a Book on purpose to prove Sir *Henry Vane* no *Jesuite*.

Sure Mr. *Stubs* did not find this in Mr. *Harringtons* model, which he admires as if *it were a pattern out of the Mount*. No certainly Mr. *Harrington* hath more *Wisedom* and more *Honesty*: His *Senate* is only to *give light*; he doth not propound a *Senate* to be the *Intereſt of the Commonwealth*; to ſecure the *Honeſt party*; nor yet an *Influencing Senate* to be choſen by a few men, that call themſelves the *Godly party*: But to be choſen by the people as the *other Houſe*. Theſe two *Senates* are as contrary as *White* to *Black*.

And if Mr *Harringtons* Model came out of the *Mount*, I wonder from whence, from what *Manuſcript* this Library-keepers Noddle did bring out his. If there muſt be a *Senate*, ſurely none better, certainly none can be honeſt, and juſt, but that which the *people chooſe*, as Mr *Harrington* ſaith. Pray why ſhould the *Army* chooſe? Are there not as Honeſt men as themſelves in every part of the Nation? What, I'le warrant, the *major* part is the *wiſer* part, therefore they muſt not be truſted; But the *Council of Officers*.

I wonder indeed, how the major part of the *Council of Officers*, can take themſelves to be honeſt; who firſt *declared* againſt

> *A Single Perſon: Then routed the* Parliament: *Then ſet up a* Mock Parliament: *then pulled it down: Then made their General* Protector *for life; then made him to beget a* Protector: *Then broke this Government: Then ſuffered the* Parliament *to ſit again: Now have broke them again. What comes next? That which they will break again ere long. One can hardly give a worſe Character of Men*: Meddle not with them that are given to change,

And muſt theſe chooſe us an *Influencing Senate*? It is like to be well done; Well, and when all is done, carry on your *Refined Intereſt* as well as you can, your *Mock-parliament*, or *Seventy Elders* would never agree; ſome would ſee further into Miſtons then others, and had a more Glorious Cauſe to carry on then the reſt; and then this would be the *Refined Intereſt*; there would be no end, till we fall all to *Errant popery*: Yea, you *Senate* and your *Parliament* would agree like *Cats and Dogs*, they would never unite; where then is your Deſign?

Have you no Guts in your Brains? *Why do you rage, and imagine a vain thing?* As ſure as you live, *nothing but honeſt and righteous things* will be *a* Foundation for us to bottom upon, if we mean *to ſtand againſt the Winds and Waves that are like to beat againſt our Houſe*.

He is no *Designer* now, that will not be *Honest*: Nothing but *Honesty*, and a *publick heart* can carry us with *credit* and *safety* through these *Discriminating times*. Never were such days of *Triall* in *England*: They may go to School again that have *Machiavil* by heart; there hath been and is another *Game* going in *England*, then these Gamesters are aware of. He must have been *purely honest*, and not much *pre-possessed*, that hath not gravelled himself in these last *twenty* years. Ye have many *Flatterers* but few *reall Friends*.

Glad my heart, and do Righteous things, you that are Honest: *Ye cannot wipe your mouth, and say, What evil have we done now? Ye cannot have such a Face of Brasse; such a Whores Forehead*: Repent, repent: Deny us not our just Rights; let *Righteousnes take place: so shall you repair the Breach you have made upon us; so shall we be established*; for *God established the Just*. And learn by no means *talk deceitfully for* God.

To say no more, It is the most ruinous, the most dangerous and destructive action that ever was taken to task. *Parliament* broken, *Nation* unsetled, *Friends* discontented, no body but blames you, *Laws* and *Liberties* all a going; the *Sword* Rampant, the *Nation* undone, your *Enemies* more numerous and mighty; the *Common Interest* of the Nation in jeopardy; your *Good Old Cause* at stake; nay, your own Throats ready to be cut; as if you were going *like an Oxe to the slaughter, or a Fool to the correction of the stocks; like a Bird snared in an evil Net, like a Bird that hasteth to the net, and knoweth not that it is for his life*: What say Friends and Foes;

The Army would not refer the Nation unto the eare of this Parliament, *that were, as one should say,* Flesh of their Flesh, and Bone of their Bone; *surely no* Parliament *will ever doe good upon them since this could not: If any other* Parliament *crosse them, then they must turn out for* Malignants: With this word in their ears, *What shall we be Governed by them we Conquered but the other day?*

Are there no *English* spirits in the Nation?

What can you expect, but a general Revolt of the people? and that all the Nation should be in Bloud: Surely it is as good for us to die as to live the Slaves of our Servants, most of whom our purses have raised from the dunghil.

Sir *Geore Booth* is an inconsiderable Traytor now; you may be ashamed to Sequester his Estate, who did but endeavour to do what you have done; and had more to say for himself ten to one then you.

Every thing looks black about us at home, and abroad; Neighbours

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at home ready to cut our throats and yours too; at this very instant you have disobliged your friends, and yet forain Nations threaten us hard: It is in every bodies mouth, and I doubt 'tis too true, *Ambassadours are coming to offer us* CHARLES STUART *upon Terms, if we will not, then they will bring him in by Force*; If this be so, *Lord have mercy upon us*: here are thousands in *England* would rather the *Turk* should come in, then things should be as they are: and you have broken the hearts of your best friends, who will have small courage to assist you in keeping out our COMMON ENEMY, since when it is done, we might be sure to return to our former *slavery*.

France and *Spain* look at us untowardly, others besides would put to their helping hand to Ruine us; for all whom we should not have cared Three skips of a Louse, if you had not disturbed our SETTLEMENT, we should have been *formidable* to all *Europe*, yea, to the *World*, as the Author of that Book,

——France *no friend to* England----

hath put his Christian Majesty in minde of.

This is the kindnesse you have done for your selves and us, whereby you have made us carelesse of our own and of your safety; wherefore let me speak to you in the words of *Joab*,

——*Now therefore arise, go forth, and speak comfortable words to your servants; for I swear by the Lord, if you go not forth, there will not tarry with thee one this night* (when this night of troubles comes upon you, which hastens apace, our Sun being almost set) *and this will be worse unto you then all the evill hath befallen you untill now.*

I am not humoursome, nor have I so much interest going in this parliament as some of your selves, ten of them do not know me I am certain; if you could call another parliament fairly, whom you could and would refer your selves unto, I should be silent, and glad that the salvation of the Nation might come that way; and so I dare say would most of that parliament you have now shut out.

But I doubt, yea I am confident this will not be, can there be a parliament fairly chosen, that shall so much be concerned to secure what we have been contending for hitherto, *They cut off the Kings head: they Voted down Monarchy, and the House of Lords: they set up the Commonwealth; they are concerned to venture their credits to get you money:* do you think they are not most concern to keep up what they have set up: another parliament would strain at a Gnat, and think it a Camel if they should swallow

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an act for 40000 *l. per mensem*; these men as far as I can see, must do the drudgery, and make way for another parliament, by putting all out of debt, and putting things into a Method for a new Election, and then things may go on handsomely; else I fear it much, we shall see no settlement.

All things look with a sad face, the clouds threaten us from every quarter of Heaven; the Ship of the Commonwealth is now launched out into the Ocean of Confusion, and it is greatly to be feared, the Voyage will be with hurt, and much damage not only of the Lading and Ship, but also of our lives, however the Masters of our ship have perswaded us that the Haven wherein we were was not convenient to winter in, and have hoised sail intending to run a desperate course and the wind now blowing softly they suppose they have obtained their purpose: but I doubt me it will not be long, ere there arise against it a tempestuous wind, an *Euroclidon*, which will catch the Ship, that they cannot bear up in the Wind, but must let her drive, when if they can come by the Boat, and use helps for undergirding the Ship; 'tis well, they may strike sale, and be driven for fear of the quick-sands, and to day light the Ship of the Goods, and to morrow cast overboord the Tackling of the Ship with their own hands.

Verily now there is no small tempest to lie on us, and neither Sun no Moon hath appeared for these many days, but all hopes that we shall be saved is well nigh taken away: we sounded Wednesday, and found it twenty fathoms, Thursday, and found it fifteen fathoms, and in great fears we are of falling upon the Rocks, though but the other day we deemed that we drew nigh to some Countrey, to some *Settlement*; however our Ship-men discovering a certain Creek, that they knew not what Countrey it is, minded to thrust in the Ship, but are fallen where two Seas meet, and the Ship is run a ground, that it sticks fast; and great fears there are all will be broken to pieces and all lost: those Marriners that but now managed the Ship are almost gone, but call them back by all means; you might indeed have hearkned to your friends, and not to have loosed from *Creet* (from *Westminster*) and so have gained this harm and losse; but put all again into their hands that are your best Pilots, they will by the blessing of God bring off the Ship safely; I dare warrant there shall be no losse of the Ship, nor of any mans Life among you; *Howbeit*, as *Paul* said to the *Centurian*, and to the *Souldiers*, I am confident I may say so to you, *Except these men abide in the Ship* (for a while) *ye cannot be saved.*

FINIS.

1659.

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